



**EDDIE A. PEREZ**  
Mayor

# CITY OF HARTFORD

OFFICE OF HUMAN RELATIONS  
Hartford Commission on Disability Issues  
550 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Telephone: (860) 757-9785  
Fax: (860) 722-6486  
[www.hartford.gov](http://www.hartford.gov)



**LILLIAN I. RUIZ**  
Director

Commission on Disability Issues, City of Hartford

Meeting Report, February 4, 2009

The discussion began at 5:45 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Office of Human Relations of City all, 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT.

In attendance: Gil Cortez, Office of Human Relations, Kathy Pacelle, Kathy Strauss, Janet Wallans, Chair and Cheryl Zeiner.

Excused: Kathy Marseglia, Linda Schnitzer and Debra St. Germain, Vice Chair.

Absent: Chris Kelly and Candace Low

Guest: Matthew Poland, Interim Director, Office of the Chief Librarian, Hartford Public Library

As a quorum was not present, no formal business of the Commission was conducted.

Matthew Poland, Interim Director of the Hartford Public Library attended the meeting to respond to concerns from the Commission regarding the closing of the Arch Street entrance and the status of the accessibility of the Main Street entrance. He stated that as of now, the Arch Street entrance would remain open, at least until the Main Street door was made accessible. He said that should happen by February 28. The necessary hardware for the door has been at the library for a few months, but they have been trying to work out arrangements for the installation.

The concern at the Arch street entrance was that the security person at the Arch Street entrance would be better utilized walking around the building to spot trouble areas, rather than staying at the desk. He said one way to get around this problem would be the installation of security cameras throughout the building. The security person at the Arch Street entrance could then be located at the main desk where they could monitor the security cameras. This would allow many more "eyes" to view various parts of the library.

Janet mentioned that she thought this would be a good solution to the problem. She stated that she would be very disappointed if they closed the Arch Street entrance for many reasons. For her personally, the Arch Street entrance has improved access to the library. It is only steps away from the street, as opposed to the Main Street entrance that requires crossing a wide plaza. Also, she noted that even if there were "handicapped" parking spots on Main and Arch Streets near the ramp at that corner, there is no guarantee that these spots would be available when a person using the van service needed to park. She mentioned that there always seemed to be parking available on Arch Street near the Arch Street side entrance.

Mr. Poland said he would inform the Commission of any future changes.

Regarding the time of the Commission meetings, the consensus was that 5:30 p.m. was best for most people, especially those who worked.

Regarding recruitment of new members, Kathy Pacelle said she would contact the disability offices at various colleges about this.

Regarding the Commission budget, Gil said that the Commission still had \$287.00. It was noted that Kathy Strauss was present for sign language interpreting for Candace Low who was not present. The Commission would need to pay Kathy Strauss for her time.

Under Standing Committee reports, Janet said she would measure the door at Clinical Lab Partners at 85 Seymour Street.

Janet will try to get the By-laws Committee to meet.

The discussion ended at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Janet Wallans, Chair